

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 MCT-01 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04
SIL-01 SSM-03 /106 W
-----058759 010547Z /23

R 311337Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2317
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJ: LAND DAY PASSES QUIETLY

REF: (A) JERUSALEM 932, (B) TEL AVIV 4275

1. LAND DAY PASSED QUIETLY YESTERDAY AS COORDINATED
PLANNING AMONG THE SECURITY FORCES, RAKAH, AND THE LOCAL
MUNICIPALITIES AVERTED VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS. OB-
SERVANCE WAS LIMITED TO MEMORIAL RALLIES, AND POLICE WERE
ON NO OCCASION CALLED IN TO ANY VILLAGE TO RESTORE ORDER.
NEVERTHELESS, THE NERVOUSNESS OF THE AUTHORITIES WAS
REFLECTED IN THE FACT THAT IDF MILITARY GOVERNOR GENERAL
ONLY HELICOPTERED TO MOST OF THE LARGER GALILEE
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VILLAGES TO KEEP TABS ON THE SITUATION.

2. THE MAIN RALLY WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE OF SAKHNIN
(GALILEE) WHERE A MEMORIAL WAS UNVEILED TO THE THREE
DEMONSTRATORS WHO WERE SLAIN TWO YEARS AGO, WITH
5-10,000 IN ATTENDANCE. RAKAH USED THE OPPORTUNITY
TO UNDERLINE ITS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE ISRAELI ARAB

COMMUNITY, AS A GALAXY OF RAKAH STARS INCLUDING WILNER, ZAYYAD, AND MOAIS ADDRESSED THE CROWD PROTESTING THE SOUTH LEBANON ACTION AND GALILEE LAND EXPROPRIATION. THERE ARE NO REPOTS OF DISORDERLY CONDUCT ALTHOUGH (IRONICALLY) TENSION AMONG THE VARIOUS LEFTIST GROUPS WAS NOTED. THERE WAS ONLY SCATTERED INCIDENTS INCLUDING A TIRE BURNING AT JATT, STONING OF A PASSING TRUCK AT KAFR KANA AND DIR HANNA, AND A SHORT-LIVED SCHOOL STRIKE AT UMM EL-FAHM. THESE RESULTED IN A ONLY ONE ARREST.

3. COMMENT: THE DAY'S CALM WAS AN DEMONSTRATION OF BOTH RAKAH'S AUTHORITY OVER POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN THE ARAB SECTOR AS WELL AS THE ISRAELI SECURITY AUTHORITIES' PRUDENCE IN ADOPTING A LOW PROFILE PRESENCE IN GALILEE VILLAGES. THE ATTENDANCE AT THE SAKHNIN RALLY WAS IMPRESSIVE CONSIDERING THE ARAB COMMUNITIES MEAGER EXPERIENCE IN COLLECTIVE POLITICAL EXPRESSION AND MASS ACTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV04376
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780141-0763
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978031/aaaaaapw.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 34f080b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JERUSALEM 932, 78 TEL AVIV 4275
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3095662
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAND DAY PASSES QUIETLY
TAGS: PINT, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/34f080b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014